


11-9-05

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CAMERON STATION COMMUNITY CENTER AS A NEW POLLING PLACE AND ADJUST THE PRECINCT BOUNDARIES FOR THE SAMUEL B. TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BEATLEY LIBRARY, AND SOUTH PORT POLLING PLACES

ISSUE: Consideration of an ordinance to establish the Cameron Station Community Center as a new polling place and to adjust the precinct boundaries for the Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School, Beatley Library, and South Port polling places (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council pass the ordinance on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, November 12.

BACKGROUND: The Alexandria Electoral Board, which is comprised of three members who are appointed by the Alexandria Circuit Court for staggered three year terms, is responsible for making recommendations to City Council on changes in precinct boundaries and for establishing new precincts. Council has the authority to make these changes by ordinance.

State law requires the addition of a precinct or a change in precinct boundaries whenever the number of voters in any precinct for the Presidential Election exceeds 4,000. During the 2004 Presidential Election there were 3,653 voters at the Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School polling place, and, in light of recent growth, staff expects that the turnout in this precinct could exceed 4,000 during the 2008 Presidential Election if action is not taken before that time. This would require City Council to reduce the size of the Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School precinct within six months after the Presidential Election.

DISCUSSION: On October 18, 2005, the Alexandria Electoral Board voted to recommend that City Council add the Cameron Station Community Center, which is located at 200 Cameron Station Blvd., as a new polling place, and adjust the precinct boundaries for the Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School, Beatley Library, and South Port

polling places effective with the May 2006 City Council/School Board Election (Attachment 2). Although these adjustments are not currently required by law, the Electoral Board believes it would be necessary to make adjustments following the 2008 Presidential Election and recommends immediate action to address the growth in the Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School precinct, accommodate future growth, and reduce the size of the South Port precinct. This action would reduce delays for voters at each of these polling places. It is particularly important to reduce the size of the Tucker precinct because of the legal mandate and the South Port precinct because there is a small voting room at this location.

If Council approves this recommendation, the new Cameron Station Precinct would primarily be comprised of voters who live in Cameron Station and currently vote at Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School. Based on current data, the number of registered voters would be reduced from 5,567 to 3,910 at Samuel B. Tucker Elementary School, from 4,307 to 3,137 at South Port, and from 4,111 to 3,463 at Beatley Library. There would be 3,223 registered voters at the new Cameron Station Precinct (Attachment 3).

This action would not affect the City's School Board boundaries or the state House of Delegates or Senate boundaries. In addition, the recommended adjustments to precinct lines are based on census boundaries as required by State law.

If Council approves this ordinance, the United States Justice Department will also need to approve this request to facilitate the change in these polling places. The City Attorney has prepared the necessary submission for the Justice Department. In addition, after the request has been approved, the Electoral Board will send notifications to all of the registered voters in the affected precincts, and will also advertise the change in the local newspaper.

FISCAL IMPACT: It will cost approximately \$3,000 to send notifications to all of the registered voters in the affected precincts, and this can be absorbed in the Office of Voter Registration and Elections operating budget. The City also has backup voting equipment that can be assigned to the new Cameron Station Precinct.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. Ordinance.

Attachment 2. Map Reflecting Recommended Precinct Adjustments

Attachment 3. Precinct Registration Data

STAFF:

Mary T. LaMois, Secretary, Alexandria Electoral Board
Donald E Ledwig, Chairman, Alexandria Electoral Board
Anna Leider, Vice Chair, Alexandria Electoral Board
Ignacio Pessoa, City Attorney
Tom Parkins, General Registrar
Eric Spicer, Elections Administrator

Introduction and first reading:	11/09/05
Public hearing:	11/12/05
Second reading and enactment:	11/12/05

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES), and to amend and reordain "The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and Voting Places," adopted by Section 2-2-13 (MAP OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES), all of Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, to establish a new Cameron Station Community Center Election District, and make corresponding boundary adjustments to the surrounding election districts.

Summary

The proposed ordinance establishes a new election district and polling place known as the Cameron Station Community Center Election District, and makes corresponding adjustments to the boundaries of the surrounding Tucker School, Beatley Library and South Port Election Districts. These changes are proposed in order better to accommodate the number of voters in these precincts. The proposed changes do not affect the boundaries of the Alexandria School Board Election Districts.

Sponsor

City of Alexandria Electoral Board

Staff

Tom Parkins, Registrar of Voters
Eric Spicer, Elections Administrator
Ignacio B. Pessoa, City Attorney

Authority

§ 24.2-712, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

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ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES), and to amend and reordain "The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and Voting Places," adopted by Section 2-2-13 (MAP OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES), all of Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, to establish a new Cameron Station Community Center Election District, and make corresponding boundary adjustments to the surrounding election districts.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 2-2-10 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained by adding thereto a new subsection (y) to read as follows:

(y) The Cameron Station Community Center Election District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district.

The voting place within the Cameron Station Community Center Election District shall be at the Cameron Station Community Center, located at 200 Cameron Station Boulevard.

Section 2. That "The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and Voting Places," adopted by Section 2-2-13 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained as shown on Exhibit 1, attached hereto and incorporated fully by reference, to reflect the designation and description of: the new Cameron Station Community Center Election District, and the corresponding adjustment to the boundaries of the Tucker School, Beatley Library and South Port Election Districts.

Section 3. That the general registrar of voters be, and he hereby is, directed to record the foregoing amendments on the said map.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage; provided, however, that the changes in the amendments herein made shall not be implemented until the changes are first submitted to the Attorney General of the United States and no objection is interposed within 60 days of the submission, as required pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Attachment

1 Introduction: 11/9/05
2 First Reading: 11/9/05
3 Publication:
4 Public Hearing:
5 Second Reading:
6 Final Passage:

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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

2001 Precinct Census Blocks

Beatley Library, Tucker School, South Port Apts and Cameron Station Boundary Changes

ID	TRACT	BLKGRP	BLOCK	ID	TRACT	BLKGRP	BLOCK
Beatley Library				Beatley Library			
413	200303	1	1000	542	200303	3	3003
431	200303	3	3000	543	200402	1	1003
458	200303	1	1001	554	200303	3	3004
485	200303	2	2000	558	200402	1	1002
527	200303	3	3001	576	200402	1	1001
535	200303	3	3002	587	200402	1	1000
541	200303	2	2001				
Tucker School							
588	200401	1	1000				
628	200401	2	2000				
629	200402	3	3000				
633	200402	2	2000				
747	200402	3	3003				
749	200402	3	3002				
766	200402	3	3001				
797	200401	1	1001				
South Port Apartments							
622	200402	4	4000				
799	200401	4	4008				
802	200401	1	1002				
903	200401	4	4007				
929	200401	4	4006				
958	200401	4	4005				
987	200401	4	4004				
Cameron Station Community Center				Cameron Station Community Center			
646	200401	3	3000	740	200401	3	3020
655	200401	3	3001	748	200401	3	3019
660	200401	3	3002	752	200401	3	3010
662	200401	3	3008	762	200401	3	3017
667	200401	3	3003	769	200401	3	3018
682	200401	3	3005	772	200401	3	3021
689	200401	3	3004	789	200401	3	3023
703	200401	3	3006	793	200401	3	3024
704	200401	3	3015	794	200401	3	3022
707	200401	3	3012	820	200401	4	4000
715	200401	3	3007	828	200401	4	4001
718	200401	3	3013	887	200401	4	4010
722	200401	3	3014	896	200401	4	4009
730	200401	3	3011	933	200401	3	3025
733	200401	3	3016	970	200401	4	4002
734	200401	3	3009	986	200401	4	4003

7
EXHIBIT 1

13
11-9-05

**Registered Voters
Precinct Realignment
Southwest Alexandria
October 31, 2005**

Precinct	Oct. 1	Proposed
Cameron Station		3,223
Tucker	5,567	3,910
South Port	4,307	3,137
Beatley Library	4,111	3,463

Proposed figures include projected growth through 2006.